

ABOVE: Young, old, and in-between-aged visitors stopped by the Timeline Preview at the Waseca County Fair. Read about their Comments on page 4.

**INSIDE: Essential Herter's Exhibit ends Nov 20 | "Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie—A Timeline of Unique Stories from Waseca County" Opens in October | Holiday Open House, "Art of the Diorama" Dec 5**

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Linda Taylor, Researcher  
[research@historical.waseca.mn.us](mailto:research@historical.waseca.mn.us)

**WCHS HOURS:** Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5;  
 Thursdays, until 8 pm; Closed Mondays



# Events

**September 1-30** | Balcony closed for Timeline Exhibit INSTALLATION!

**October 8** | 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
 Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie exhibit MEMBERS' RECEPTION for Invited Guests

**October 10 & 11** | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Public Open House, "Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie" exhibit

**October 10** | VFW WWII Victory Dance at the Waseca Sweet-Sommers Post 1642, with the Riverside Swing Band; tickets \$30 available at the VFW.

**October 14** | WCHS Board Meeting

**October 15** | Museum evening hours begins—every Thursday open until 8 p.m.

**November 11** | WCHS Board Meeting

**November 15** | WCHS Annual Meeting and Brunch at the New Richland Community Center, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., catered by the Red Leaf restaurant.

**November 16** | WCHS hosts Waseca Chamber Business After Hours, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**November 20** | Last day of the "Essential Herders" exhibit

**November 26** | Thanksgiving Day

**December 5** | Holiday Open House

**December 9** | WCHS Board Gathering

**Open Thursday evenings until 8 p.m. beginning October 15**

Check our website:

[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us)



**Chautauqua was re-imagined at Trowbridge Park!**



**H**ere we go into Fall weather, warm one day, cool the next, but the turning leaves and harvests are always something to behold in our county! So what happened this Summer, and what's coming up for Fall?

**The Essential HerTERS** exhibit has been on display since June, with an Open House on July 25, the same day as the **Swap Meet** at the Fairgrounds. Attendance was a little less than expected, but we enjoyed hosting the camaraderie that happens whenever two or more Herter's collectors are together. "The Essential HerTERS"



Mr. Haney drove from Kentucky to attend AGAIN!

will close on November 20. Thanks to Doug Lodermeier, Jeff Hedtke, Alan Bakke, Vern Ferch, and Bob Barrie for their expertise and loan of their collections. Additional connections were made, including plans for 2016. The final exhibit next June, "The Authentic George Leonard Herter, Really?!" focusing on the native son, his Waseca County roots, his family and friends who helped grow Herter's. Ron

Schara, Outdoorsman and TV personality, has promised to bring his show to the opening, tentatively scheduled for July 29, 2016. The documentary filmmaker, Gideon Kennedy, will be back as well. Stand by!



Ron Schara with Raven

**The Timeline Preview** was produced to have members and visitors participate in a Community Comment period. From May 15 at the museum through July 15-19 at the Waseca County Fair in Hodgson Hall, nearly 5,000 visitors were exposed to the Timeline's 18 panels. About 133 filled out surveys, caught corrections, revisions and suggested items to include. There

## Timeline PREVIEW



were great discussions every day at the fair—about our history! We are grateful for a Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Small Grant to make this phase of our larger exhibit project possible. Read about the full

installation and opening of "Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie" exhibit on page 4.

### Website redesign underway

We found that as the timeline exhibit evolved, so had the technology to enhance visitor experiences. We are learning about "responsive websites" and "audio tour apps" for smartphones and tablets. We are planning and framing projects to collaborate with high school students, who understand these technologies better than us. The full timeline exhibit opening in October will create lots of conversation and desire to know more about Waseca County stories. We want to make that information and more photographs accessible online *and* on our devices as soon as we can, maintaining the searchability of our online databases.

### WCHS Annual Fund Drive begins in October

The Annual Fund Drive helps tremendously with WCHS Operations. It has become a very important part of the balance of funding that makes WCHS a successful non-profit local history organization. Please understand that the Waseca County Historical Society is the primary keeper of Waseca County history. Its dedicated board and staff have been successful in maintaining the facilities and preparing for the Timeline *to bring WCHS to a new era of professional museum programming and community wide participation and support*. Be part of that support by donating to the Annual Fund, OR upgrading your membership with an additional donation, OR gifting a membership to a friend or extended family member, OR volunteering your skills and time. Be part of this success!

### The 2015 Annual Meeting & Brunch

will be held at New Richland's Community Center/City Hall on Sunday, November 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reservations \$15, call 507-835-7700. The brunch will be catered by the Red Leaf restaurant.



### Thanks to Special WCHS members!

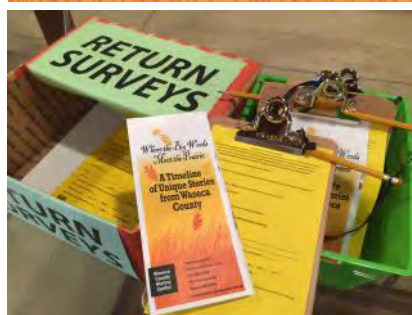
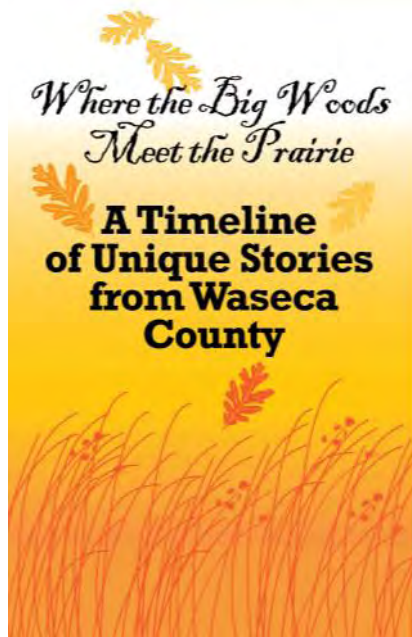
We want to acknowledge some special efforts by three long-time members. Each in their own way demonstrate that passion for Waseca County history:

**Patrick Madden** inspired the effort to fixup the old St. Mary Church Memorial located very near the spot where the church once stood. Madden, and WCHS board members, Dave Dunn and Dave Zika fixed, painted, and cleaned the Memorial. Then Mr. Madden donated a written history of St. Mary's Church to our research library. It's here for any visitor to read.

**Robert Hagen** has been a WCHS member for years. Just recently, his research about the city of Palmer, and its location, was the subject of a front page story in the August 14, 2015 *Waseca County News*. Hagen worked to have a road sign installed to mark the place where Palmer once existed, and we

## Where the Big Woods Meet the Prairie, A Timeline of Unique Stories from Waseca County

**W**e are so excited about this month's timeline exhibit installation, at long last. We've been talking about it for years, at the end of September it will be installed. Decades in the gathering and concept stages, several years worth of grant requests and donations, even more years of frustration trying to make "final" decisions. But some of the most satisfying moments in our tenure at WCHS were connected to the successes of this project. This summer of the Timeline Preview, inviting comments, the best was at the Waseca County Fair. Our members, you, know something of our daily work of processing newly donated artifacts and information, preserving, and making it accessible on our searchable website. We greet visitors all the time, particularly during the summer months, and they are from all over. They come for reunions, genealogy quests, school projects, curiosity of new residents or businesses. We've been educating searchers for years about how to find the answers to one's genealogical quests and other information. And we've been showing small exhibits for years, very few grant funded, and produced using our storytelling instincts, our scanner and copier/printer. Our big story this Fall is the completion of the Waseca County Timeline: It's brand-new, innovative, unique, professional, permanent and evolving. It's interactive, ADA compliant, and it will serve to always have something of Waseca County history to see any time.



### September Installation

Now the Timeline exhibit is the most professional and widest scope of interpretation WCHS has ever accomplished. Over 150 years of highlights of people, places and events, set in the context of a few state and national events will bring your history "out of our files and in your face." The 18 timeline panels present a decade by decade array of information, images and artifacts for you to ponder. With the 19 brand-new, innovative ex-



hibit cases, each focused on one unique story of Waseca County, you will learn by being in "the presence of the genuine". You will be encouraged to find out more. This exhibit will create more questions than answers! And you will want to share as you learn. You will want to bring your children, parents, grandchildren to share the experience together. And you'll want to come back and see how this exhibit evolves over time--because history keeps on happening.

### 1850s to the 2010s

You will see that we included panels through the present *unfinished* decade. Young people at the county fair were surprised to see that years of their recent experiences were included—and what did we highlight? Did they agree with our choices? What will these events mean over time? Some of the more familiar large artifacts will be fully interpreted, and integrated with the new elements of the full display. New programming will be developed. New outreach to sixth-graders in the county will happen in early 2016. And next year, we hope to provide self-directed audio museum tours, and audio historical walking and driving tours around our county community.

### October Opening Events

As WCHS Members, you are invited to a Members' Opening Reception on Thursday, October 8, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Enjoy appetizers and wine, a brief thank you presentation, browse the exhibit on your own. It is also the final month of the "Essential Herters" exhibit. The research library will be closed, but staff will demonstrate our online search capabilities. Then on the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11, 11 a.m. to 4



# Working Women Photographers, the Yates Sisters

Researched by Linda Taylor, Edited by Pauline Fenelon

During the late nineteenth century, photography was an occupation largely engaged in by men. A woman was more likely to be the subject posing in front of a camera rather than the operator behind a camera.

In Waseca and Waterville, however, there were two sisters who worked as photographers and eventually even operated their own studios. What we know of them, has been documented primarily through census records, their business newspaper advertisements and, of course, through the examples of their fine photographic portraits collected at the Waseca County Historical Society.

Their parents, Jerome and Desdemona Yates left Wisconsin to live in Wasioja in Dodge County, Minnesota between 1880 and 1885. The two daughters, Lillian, 25, and Margaret, 19, were still living with their parents at that time.

By 1888, Lillian had moved to Waseca where, the local newspaper, the *Waseca Radical* reported, “Miss Yates who has worked for Mr. Manderfeld two years, will continue the business and expects to sustain the reputation which the gallery had while in Mr. Manderfeld’s hands. Prices the same. Work Guaranteed.” Lillian Yates’ advertisements for the Gallery were published as “Miss L. Yates (successor to Manderfeld’s) Photograph Gallery. Ferrotypes and photographs of all sizes and styles. The Dry Plate Process used exclusively. Satisfaction guaranteed in cloudy as well as in clear weather. Rooms over Wright’s Drug Store, Waseca, Minn.” That location in today’s Waseca is at 100 1/2 State Street.

Later that year in May, the *Waseca Radical* reported, “The Misses Yates are doing excellent work at Manderfeld’s old gallery. Call and inspect their work and prices.” Between November 9 and November 16, 1888, the gallery name was changed from Miss L. Yates to Yates Sisters.

The sisters also had owned a business in Waterville, but in 1894, the sisters commented in the *Waseca Radical*, “We have sold our gallery at Waterville. Having now only the business at Waseca we shall be able to fill our orders more promptly.” In the 1895 census, they listed their occupation as “Photo Lab”, and in the 1900 census, both Lillian and Margaret were listed as “Photographer”.



ABOVE: Lillian Yates posed in her studio with photographer’s professional magazine; BELOW: The WCHS Collection’s Studio Graflex 8x10 camera, on display on the museum balcony



In April 1900, the *Radical* reported, “We hear that Yates Sisters, Photographers have sold their gallery to Mr. Norton of Sleepy Eye.” Yet a week later in the same newspaper, is an advertisement, “All the newest styles in great variety, and all the new ideas in Photographs, at the elite Photograph Gallery...”

By 1902, the sisters had relocated to Worthington, Minnesota where Lillian opened another photo studio. The local newspaper, the *Worthington Advance* reported, “The Misses Yates have rented the house which C.W. Finch will vacate next week. Miss Yates, formerly lived in Waseca where she was engaged in the same business (Photography). Since coming here, she has not only proven herself an artist in her line, but most accommodating. She desires it stated that she does nothing but first class and up to date work, and patrons can rest assured of promptness and efficiency.”

Lillian Yates remained in the photography business in Worthington about 10 years. Her studio was above the Glove office. The *Worthington Advance* reported in August 1908, “Monday morning, Miss Lillian Yates, the photographer, made a unique picture in as much as it was a four generation photo and the principles were relatives of the photographer. The picture is the more remarkable from the fact that all were male subjects and there is a difference of ninety years between the eldest and the youngest people.”

Lillian sold out to her well-known competitor, H. J. Blume, left Worthington, and moved to Fall River County, South Dakota with her sister Margaret. Apparently they gave up the photography business as in the 1910 Federal Census

their occupation is documented as Farming. Margaret had also worked for a time as a cook at the South Dakota State Soldiers’ Home. She died May 24, 1913 of heart failure. Her body was taken to New Ulm for burial.

At age 41, Lillian Yates married Robert L. Hewitt on December 14, 1914 at Edgemont, Fall River, SD. That marriage ended in divorce, so Lillian supported herself by working as a salesperson at a local hardware store. In 1921, she married a local recreation parlor proprietor, John A. Germiquet. Lillian, who died September 14, 1942 at age 65 is buried along with her husband in the Edgemont Cemetery, Section D.



TOP: L-R, Dave Zika, Patrick Madden, and Dave Dunn at the St. Mary Church Memorial site. ABOVE: Robert Hagen If you have more information or memories to share about Palmer, email Robert Hagen: RDHExpress@gmail.com. Photo courtesy of the Waseca County

congratulate him!

We are deeply grateful to **Ron and Janet Johnson**, who contributed a \$4,500 grant from their family foundation to cap the fundraising for new Bailey-Lewer Library shelving and storage. The project is proceeding under the direction of Staff Librarian and Co-Collections Manager, Pauline Fenelon. The donation was made in her honor, as Johnson and Fenelon are cousins and fellow genealogists! We also want to acknowledge the previous donations that altogether have funded the \$10,000 project: Don and Margaret Wynnemer, Ole and Jean Lundquist, and Henry and Phyllis Lewer.

This summer's vintage gardens around the Bailey-Lewer Li-

brary were especially beautiful, partly because we received enough rain and sunshine, but more because of the passionate tending by **Kathy Oftedahl and Gladys Carlson**. We thank them for providing a dazzling starting point for the Waseca Garden Club Summer Garden Walk in August!

Finally, we must acknowledge the continuous indexing and research work of **Jean Lundquist**, who indexes the Janesville Argus newspapers, and **Jan Hunter**, who is an ace researcher. Both have been members and volunteers for years. Jean served on the Board of Directors also. Their work brings the data to you on our searchable website. Did you know that the indexing makes searching possible?

As we approach the Fall events and make plans for 2016, we are so very grateful for your membership and volunteer support. Being fully exhibited in our recently-maintained, nearly century old facility is significant. In January we will begin our ninth year as co-executive directors. We never dreamed that we would have a new roof, new storage, a lift, new permanent timeline exhibit, and endowments doubled during these eight years! END

*Sheila, Joan, Pauline, Vanessa & Linda, and the WCHS Board of Directors*



**TIMELINE EXHIBIT | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

p.m. the entire Waseca County community is invited to view the exhibit, free and open to all.

**New Initiatives for Students**

After 12 years WCHS is no longer presenting the Annual Ice Harvest on Clear Lake. Next school year, Farmamerica may embrace this wonderful historical outdoor learning activity. However, last spring a fire destroyed the vintage tools and saws needed for this event. If you know of resources to replace the tools, call WCHS or Scott Roemhildt.)

And because of the new Timeline Exhibit, we want to redirect sixth-graders' history experience to the museum and blend in Waseca County history with the Minnesota history curriculum already in place. WCHS can provide that local connection.

In addition WCHS is forming a high school student advisory board to help us get those Waseca County Unique Stories into the technology many of you enjoy and prefer—like “audio histo-

ry guides” on smart phones and tablets. The potential is to expand this technology to include the museum exhibits, then walking and driving tours of historic sites around our towns and county. The technology is here, the planning is underway. END



## Thanks to these generous people!

From June 3 to September 1, 2015

These are quarterly new/renewed members, donations, acknowledgements. The WCHS Annual Report lists all members.

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Renewed Members

Curran, Helen (MN)  
Elsner, Arlene (MN)  
Evenson, Ellsworth (WI)  
Gahler, Fr. Robert E. (NY)  
Georgas, Peter (MN)  
Graham, Barbara (WI)  
Hager, Ruth Ann (MN)  
Harguth, Dorothy (MN)  
Hatfield, Carol (IN)  
Hull, Michael (NY)  
Kastner, Bonnie (MN)  
Kurkoski, Tom and Cheryl (MN)  
Madden, Patrick (MN)  
McDonough, Shawn (MN)  
Nelson, Carolyn (OR)  
Norman, Beverlee (AZ)  
Ofstedahl, Kathy (MN)  
Perdew, Chloe (CA)  
Rosenthal, Jeanette (MN)  
Salmon, Juliet (MN)  
Schultz, Janet (MN)  
Searle, Alan (OR)  
Tinker, Kathryn (TX)  
Tully, William (CA)  
Wildgrube, Barb (MN)  
Wildgrube, Beverly (MN)  
Youngberg, Kate/Oliver/Henry (MN)

#### New Members

Bathke, Patricia (MN)  
Bodeau, Kim (WI)  
Dowd, Deborah (WI)  
Frank, Roberta (CA)  
Griffith, Mark (MN)  
Linnihan, John (IL)  
Milkint, Noralee (IL)  
Moble, Maurine (CA)  
Priebe, Don and Janet (MN)  
Roeser, Mary (WI)  
Roesler, Dillis (CA)

#### West, Janet Friedrich (IL)

#### Sustaining Member \$100

Madel, R.P., Lakeshore Inn

#### Donations

Phetteplace, Becky L.,  
*In honor of the wedding of Curt Lund and Ben Imker*  
Macatangay, S. (IL)  
Rohde Family reunion  
Bathke, Patricia

#### Appropriations

Alton Township Board, \$400  
Otisco Township Board, \$400  
Vivian Township Board, \$200  
Freedom Township Board, \$150  
Wilton Township, \$300  
Blooming Grove, \$250  
City of Waseca, \$2,250  
Waseca County, \$30,000

#### Memorials

**In memory of Russell Gasner**  
by Eunice Gasner  
**In memory of Marvin Weber**  
by Henry and Phyllis Lewer  
**In memory of Tony Syblirud**  
by Henry and Phyllis Lewer

#### In memory of Donald Zellweger

by Mr. and Mrs. John Krause  
by Milly Neidt  
by Jean and Jim Halling  
by Lonnie and Eugene Kuhns  
**In memory of Joseph Wheelock**  
by Donna Fostveit

#### In memory of Marie Larson

by Donna Fostveit  
**In memory of Patsy Root Bartz**  
by Donna Fostveit

#### In memory of Kate Hanf

by Donna Fostveit  
by Russ and Terri Ingram  
**In memory of Walt Kinder**  
by Henry and Phyllis Lewer  
by family and friends

#### In memory of Henrietta Peters

by Donna Fostveit

#### Grants Received

Ronald J. Johnson & Janet E. Johnson Foundation, \$4,500—for Library shelving  
PLRAC, fulfillment of grant, \$1,146

#### Volunteers

##### Around the Museum

Steve Luther, Herter's installation help  
Greg Klingerman and STS crew  
Dave Dunn

##### Chautauqua at Trowbridge

Linda Grant  
Jane Dunn  
Jim Tippy  
Donna Fostveit  
Elliott Forsythe  
Diane Forsythe  
Nancy Nelson-Deppe  
Mick Barens  
Jerome Broughten  
Randy Broughten  
John Luca  
Scott Eichhorst  
Audie Gillespie  
Al Batt  
Puppet Arts Farm  
Jalisco Mariachi Band  
Rich Lewis Band  
John Pribble, Tom Hagen, Darin Milbrett-Occasional BBQ  
Jessica Barens, Patricia Beckmann-

Waseca Arts Council

Friends of the Library

##### County Fair

Cory Boje  
Scott Beckmann  
Jim Christiansen  
Dan Swenson  
Don Zwach  
Lorraine Harter  
Carollea Gilomen  
Charles Espe  
Dave Zika  
Gladys Carlson  
Nancy Nelson-Deppe  
Karl Jones  
Mary Jane Stauffer  
Bruce Stauffer  
Linda Bom  
Al Batt  
Judy Joecks  
Kathy Ofstedahl  
Marilee Reck  
Donna Fostveit  
Jeanie Thompson

Audra Nissen-Boyer  
Jan Hunter  
Jim King  
Barb King  
Myra Battenfeld  
Essential Herter's exhibit  
Doug Lodermeier  
Jeff Hedtke  
Alan Bakke  
Bob Barrie  
Vern Ferch  
Mary Lou Stauffer  
Bruce Stauffer  
Linda Grant  
Katie Youngberg  
Henry Lewer  
Dave Dunn  
Karen Simmons, artifact donation  
Herter's Swap Meet  
Dave Dunn  
Linda Bom  
Jeannie Thompson

### Projects & Possibilities!



#### 1. Bailey-Lewer Library

**Shelving:** Goal: \$10,000—  
**FUNDED!**

#### 2. Digital Projection System

**Speakers:** To enhance our program events.

#### 3. Match Donations for Audio History Tours App in 2016

**4. Bailey-Lewer Library Basement Upgrade**—The basement needs support LITERALLY.



*The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.*



**What is your connection to Waseca County history? How do you support it?**

#### RENEW

Your membership.

#### INCREASE

Your Member Level.

#### Donate to an ENDOWMENT.

It's the kind of gift that keeps on giving.

#### Contribute to the ANNUAL FUND for Operations.

Think about your final plans. Make WCHS a **BENEFICIARY.**

#### Make a GRAIN DONATION.

#### Become a HISTORY PARTNER

#### VOLUNTEER

Does your employer match volunteer hours with a donation?

#### GIFT MEMBERSHIP

To your family members & friends.

#### MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

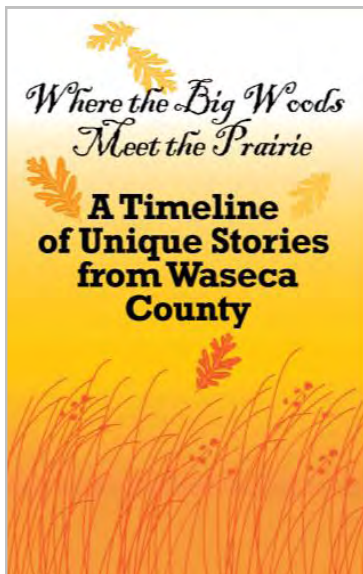
Are a great way to remember and honor loved ones.

#### ADVOCATE

For WCHS. You know us, tell others about WCHS.

[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Membership Renewal Date

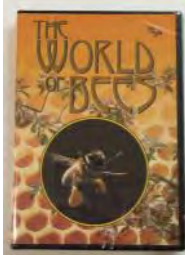


MEMBERS' RECEPTION: **OCTOBER 8, 5:30-8:30 pm**  
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE: **OCTOBER 10 & 11, 11 am-4 pm**

## The Museum Shop

### "THE WORLD OF BEES"

Newly restored DVD by Charlie Hofmann,  
available NOW!



### HERTER T-SHIRTS \$15

with the young George Herter fishing  
"You can't write this stuff!"

### NEW VINTAGE NOTECARDS \$4

**SOPHIE'S FRIEND** Le Chat,  
for baby **15**

### Meissenburg VINTAGE SIGNS!

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507-835-7700



The Waseca VFW Sweet-Sommers Post 1642 is presenting a WWII Victory Dance at their post headquarters—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10—Appetizers, Swing Dance Lessons, Dance until 12. Uncle Sam says "I Want You to Dance!" Look for posters around town and/or stop by the VFW for tickets, \$30 per person. This is a fundraiser for the Waseca VFW Post 1642.